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DENVER & RIO GRANDE R. R.

WITH NATURE IN COLORADO

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With Nature in Colorado

I'm going to paint a picture with a pencil of my own,
I shall have no hand to help me, I shall paint it all alone.
Oft I fancy it before me and my hopeful heart grows faint,
As I contemplate the grandeur of the picture I would paint.

—CY. WARMAN.

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THE CARSON-HARPER CO. ENG.

With Nature in Colorado

A brief résumé of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountain Region

Royal Gorge

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DENVER, COLORADO

Pike's Peak from the Garden of the Gods

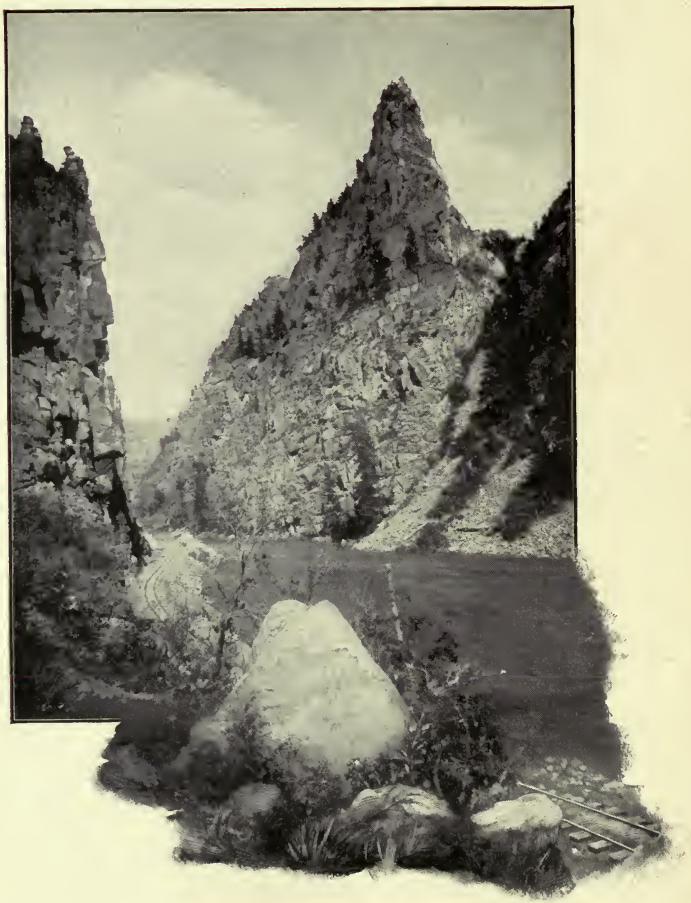
F78
D44

TO him who in the love of nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language.

—*Thanatopsis*

Mount of the Holy Cross

Curecanti Needle



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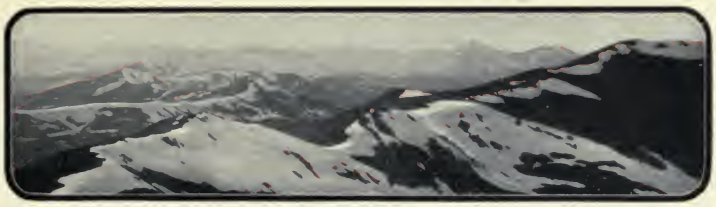


Crest of the Range

A Land of Infinite Variety

NATURE has been most generous in her gifts to Colorado, and, with more than the magic of the ancient alchemist, has wrought wonders in behalf of her favorite child. There is nothing hackneyed, nothing common-place in the experiences of a visitor to Colorado. In spring and summer the traveler sees the dry and gravel-covered plains bloom out with luxuriant verdure, a miracle as wonderful in seeming as the budding of Tannhauser's pilgrim-staff, and the cause of this phenomenon of the plains—irrigation—is itself novel and interesting.

Nature's gifts to Colorado

And while the plains are decked with the verdure of spring or the blossoms of summer, the higher peaks of the mountains are covered with eternal snow and a cool breeze sweeps down from those celestial summits as grateful to the traveler as a draught of snow-cooled sherbet in a desert land.

But the fall and winter are not less delightful. The climate of Colorado is of that sub-acid character which appeals to the jaded spirits and serves as a tonic to the weary nerves. There is nothing gloomy about the weather. There are no skies of lead, few days that are dark and

Delightful climate

dreary, and when occasionally such a day does come, it is so rare as to excite wondering comment, and is gone before it has had a chance to get onto one's nerves.

Sunshiny days

As a matter of statistics it may be well to say that out of the 365 days in a year Colorado has 340 days of sunshine, wholly or in part. And there seldom exists any cause for a tourist to complain that his view has been cut off by darkling skies or his trip made unpleasant by unpropitious weather. The sunshine of Colorado

Wagon Wheel Gap

Enjoyment and health

carries with it a cheerfulness of spirit that is splendidly conducive to hearty enjoyment and, in addition to that, bears in its bright embrace that health-giving elixir which heals otherwise irremediable ills.

Trite has become the advice that one should "go to Colorado for health, wealth and pleasure," and, assuredly,

it is more than half true, for one cannot fail to secure health and pleasure from a sojourn in this favored region, and, as for wealth, there is plenty of it locked up in the hills or within the soil of the fertile plains. As to securing this wealth, that all depends on the individual, just as it does everywhere.

Wealth in the mountains and plains

But to the one who seeks health and pleasure in Colorado the result cannot fail to be gratifying. Especially healing is the climate to those who suffer from diseased lungs. Years of observation on the part of medical scientists have established the fact that there is no climate in the world better adapted to the absolute cure of consumption than that of this sun-bathed plateau. The climate is an absolute specific and no case that is taken in time will fail to yield to the health-restoring influences of this oxygenated air and these bright and bracing days.

Specific for consumption

New surroundings keep the mind pleasantly excited, novel experiences divert from too much introspection, high altitude sets the blood to coursing freely, and the invalid who, quite despondent and almost despairing, seeking for health will find it with Nature in Colorado.

Eagle River

In Perry Park

Suggestions of Scenic Delights

ARRIVING at Denver, the capital of Colorado and the largest city in the State, the traveler in search of the beautiful, the picturesque and the novel, although in the midst of metropolitan surroundings, with all the luxuries and the artificialities of the highest modern civilization, finds himself also in the immediate presence of Nature. Art may environ the visitor on every side. Architecture may pile its many-storied edifices to right and left, but Nature cannot thus be masked and hidden. One glance upward and westward brings to the enraptured vision that mighty procession of giant peaks, marching from north to south as far as the eye can reach, which forms the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

In the Midst of Nature

This grand parade of mountains, thus revealed from such a point of view, can never fail to make a most profound and most lasting impression. It is, indeed, unparalleled in unique beauty, and, like the thrilling

prelude to some immortal aria composed by the world's greatest musician, forms a fitting introduction, a splendid suggestion of the delights, the grandeurs and the glories which await one who sojourns, though but for a brief season, with Nature in Colorado.

The glories that await you

Pike's Peak from Colorado Springs

Fortunately for the traveler whose anticipations of enjoyment have been so aroused, the opportunities for beholding the indescribable wonders of the mountains have been so improved that what formerly required months can now be accomplished in days, and thus the horizon of pleasure has been enlarged and the hardships of a tour among the mountains eliminated and all the luxuries and conveniences of modern travel substituted.

The opportunity to view the scenery

The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, which from its enterprise and push has been aptly termed the "Pioneer Line," and which has now earned for itself the broader characterization of "The Scenic Line of the World," has scaled the cliffs, penetrated the canons, climbed the

mountains, leaped the rivers and traversed the valleys of Colorado so completely that there is scarcely any scene of grandeur so hidden by Nature that it has not been brought plainly and easily into view.

Better than the scenery of the Old World

Thus the traveler, with no fear of hardships, but with every assurance of speed, safety, comfort and luxury, finds himself in Denver at the threshold of experiences which promise more of novelty, more of grandeur and more of really valuable knowledge than could be secured by a journey across the sea preparatory to an invasion of the trite, tame and time-worn tracts of tourist travel offered by the Old World.

Ouray

Collegiate Range

"A Mighty Maze, but Not Without a Plan"

WITH a map of "The Scenic Line" spread out before him, the traveler, ready to commence his journey from Denver, glances eagerly along the widely radiating lines of red and black which mark the courses of this marvelous railroad and reads the names of world-famed scenic wonders so lavishly distributed to north and south and west that the embarrassment of riches becomes a burden and the question "where to go first?" grows into formidable proportions. In such a case the easiest way is the best, and the easiest way is to consult some one of the courteous agents of the railroad company, who will soon make it apparent that, although the map appears to be "a mighty maze," 'tis "not without a plan."

Consult the map as to where to go

A beautiful trip

For example: if one desires to visit Colorado Springs and Manitou, the San Luis Valley, *via* La Veta Pass, behold Toltec Gorge, pass through Durango, penetrate Las Animas Canon, enter Baker's Park, cross the mountains

Manitou

from Silverton to Ouray over the famous Toll Road, or through the beautiful San Juan *via* the Rio Grande Southern, through weird Lost Canon, the wonderful Ophir Loop under the shadow of the majestic Mt. Sneffles, and gaze upon the marvels of the Black Canon, Curecanti Needle, Marshall Pass and Royal Gorge,—if such a trip is desired, it is expressed by the agent in a single phrase, "Take the Trip Around the Circle."

The agent will tell you about it

The silver San Juan

In a general way one may consider the southwestern part of Colorado as forming the famous "San Juan," a great expanse of mountains, hills, valleys, upland meadows and forests. Here gold, silver, coal, copper and iron mines abound, some of them the richest and most productive in the world. Agriculture flourishes in the valleys, the hills are populous with game, the streams are alive with trout, and the forests furnish timber of excellent quality and inexhaustible quantity.

Nowhere else in the old or new world can there be found grander or more varied scenery. The canons, passes, vales and parks afford endless combinations of beauty and magnificence, appealing to every emotion of the soul and sweeping the entire diapason of human thought.

The Rio Grande Southern

From Durango, which is the metropolis of the San Juan, the Rio Grande Southern Railroad extends to the westward into the hitherto almost inaccessible region of the Cliff Dwellers and then circling to the northward connects with the Denver & Rio Grande line at Ridgway. This comparatively recent extension of this marvelous railroad has added largely to the list of attractions in

Chipeta Falls

the way of scenic and historic interest, to say nothing of its commercial value.

Wonder places

Among these wonder places may be briefly mentioned the Cliff Dwellings, already referred to; Lost Canon

Marshall Pass

and Dolores Canon, both possessing points of interest peculiarly their own; Trout Lake, a beautiful expanse of water filled with trout, and a great resort for sportsmen; Ophir Loop, a marvel of railroad engineering; and many other interesting features, each worthy of extended description and all forming a constellation of star attractions which cannot fail to appeal strongly to the mind and impress deeply the memory of the one who is fortunate enough to behold them.

A marvel of engineering

In like manner is simplified the intricacies of a journey westward over the continental range to Leadville, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, which includes such splendid scenery as that afforded by the Royal Gorge, Mt. Massive, Eagle River Canon, the Canon of the Grand River, and return to the place of starting, through the Black Canon of the Gunnison, Marshall Pass and the Grand Canon of the Arkansas, which the agent would tersely describe as the "Short Circle."

Points of interest

It would require an expert accountant to so balance the credits to be entered in favor of each of these journeys as to decide which one possessed the greater sum of interest. The better way to do would be to take both journeys and thus lay up such a store of delightful memories that a long life of retrospection could never stale their infinite variety. But these two grand tours do not by any means exhaust the resources of novelty and knowledge commanded by the marvelous railroad which makes them accessible.

The better way

There are many matters yet to be considered; among them a visit to the famous gold mines of Cripple Creek, where millions of dollars in precious ore are taken every month from the surrounding hills and where

Tolt
Gorg

Cliff Dwellings

An extinct race

romances of sudden riches are the every-day topics of discussion. Then down in the southern extreme of Colorado, beyond Durango, a radiating line penetrates the mysterious region of the Cliff Dwellers, where the ruins of their highly advanced but hopelessly lost civilization may be seen in the canon-hollows of the Mesa Verde.

And, again, there is more of meritorious moment to be considered, for, reached by still another radiating route, are to be seen the characteristic homes of the Pueblo Indians, the makers of wonderful pottery and the heirs to a mysterious religion handed down from a remote and unknown ancestry.

The pottery makers

And down in this southern land, remote from the whirl and worry of the workaday world, the remnants

of the red aborigines, who once held savage sway over all this territory, now dwell in the ancient tribal manner upon a reservation granted them by the general government.

The red aborigines

From this brief glance upon the map and from a short conversation with some obliging agent of "The Scenic Line" the traveler, pausing for a temporary period of rest in Denver, gathers some idea of what vast scope and vague, what scenic magnificence, what historic interests, what tremendous contrasts, what heights, what depths, what vision-taxing expanses of mountain, plain and valley are awaiting the attention of him who would commune with Nature in Colorado.

The vast scope of scenic magnificence

La Veta Mountain

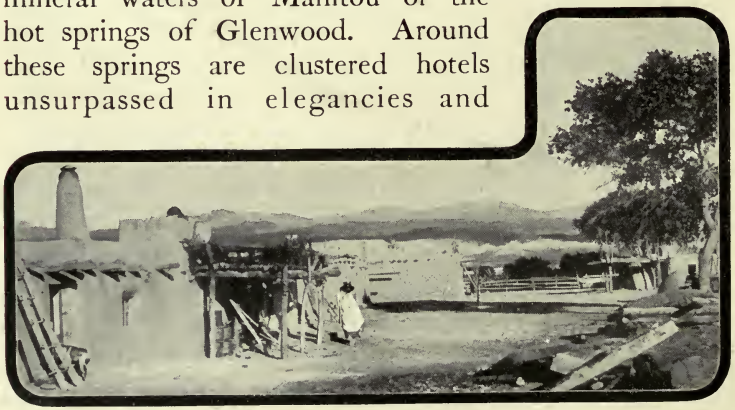
Colorado "Fountains of Youth"

HIS itinerary arranged, the traveler leaves Denver southward-bound, comfortably ensconced in a Pullman or a chair car, as choice or regard of expense may dictate, and a season of unalloyed pleasure is assured. It is no exaggeration to say that every mile of progress brings something novel, interesting or transcendently beautiful into view, and that his journey is a crescendo of delightful experiences.

Health and pleasure resorts

Should health be a desideratum, it can be found at the delightful resorts near Colorado Springs, in the mineral waters of Manitou or the hot springs of Glenwood. Around these springs are clustered hotels unsurpassed in elegancies and

Indian Pueblo



Hotel Colorado Glenwood Springs

comforts, and, in the season, the hostelries are gay with merry companies of pleasure-seekers enjoying to the utmost the charm of their delightful surroundings and gathering strength and vigor with each day.

Manitou

Manitou has been the chief health resort of Colorado for a quarter of a century, and, before that, was famed among the Indians as "Great Medicine Waters." That this fame rested upon assured experience has been demonstrated by results not only marvelous in character but frequently and continuously repeated.

Charming places

While the mineral springs of Manitou undoubtedly pour forth waters of magic medicinal properties, the air of Manitou and the adjacent beautiful city of Colorado Springs, is exhilarating and health-giving and the scenery surrounding these charming places is varied and novel. Thus there is a combination of qualities which render them among the most attractive of health resorts.

The cog wheel road

Closely adjacent are scenic beauties of world-wide celebrity. Among these are the famous Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak with its interesting cog-wheel railroad to the summit, Cave of the Winds, Rainbow Falls, Grand Caverns, Balanced Rock, and Cheyenne Canon with its remarkable Seven Falls. This mention is an injustice because it is inadequate to describe, but the glories of the Garden of the Gods alone would require more space than is allotted for this book.

Health building

The mind should be employed in the work of health-building as well as the body, and the mind is kept constantly alert and is supplied with ever-varying and always pleasing themes of thought by the grand, the novel, the

Trout Lake

graceful and the grotesque forms of Nature's handiwork which abound in and around the Pike's Peak region.

Glenwood Springs

In another way, unique and original, Glenwood Springs can claim quite as much admiration and attention. Shut in by Alpine hills, margined by a river of wonderful picturesqueness, and supplied with hot springs of established healing properties, Glenwood has received the attention of capitalists and possesses one of the largest bathing pools in the world, a bath-house of splendid and luxurious equipment, and a hotel unrivaled in excellence of service and perfection of architecture.

Those who love Nature will find themselves in

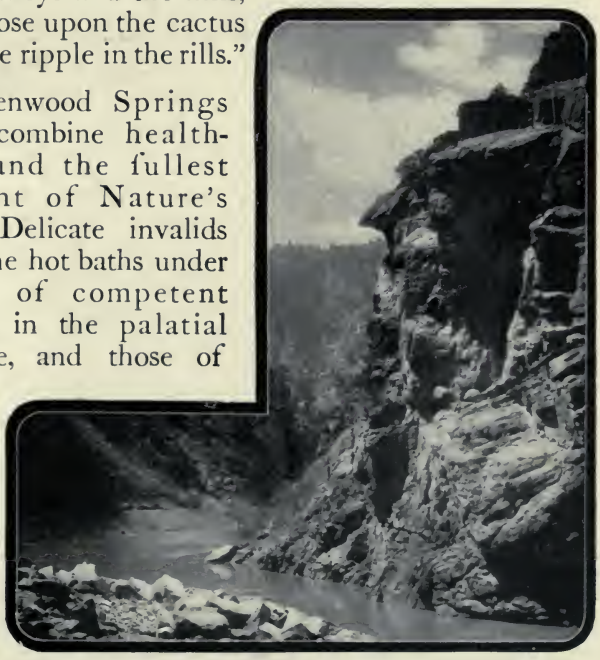
closest companionship with her in the mountainous environment of Glenwood. "The forests primeval, the murmuring pines and the hemlocks" darkle along the broad expanses of the encroaching hills, but their somber stateliness is lightened by the bright vivacity and vigorous verdure of the aspens stirred into hilarious dancing by the gentlest of zephyrs and rippling into a foam of foliage when the white surfaces of the leaves are turned upward into view by strong breezes.

Mountain forests

For the angler, the trout sport in the ripples of the river, and for the hunter big game roam among the valleys and the foothills. Flowers of graceful forms, brilliant colors and delicate perfume are to be found in lavish abundance, and the visitor to Glenwood Springs can earnestly say with Cy. Warman, one of Colorado's poets:

Wild flowers

"God was good to make the mountains,
The valleys and the hills,
Put the rose upon the cactus
And the ripple in the rills."



Canon of the Grand River

At Glenwood Springs one can combine health-seeking and the fullest enjoyment of Nature's charms. Delicate invalids can take the hot baths under direction of competent physicians in the palatial bath house, and those of more robust condition can enjoy

Nature's charms

a plunge in the swimming pool at any season of the year, the waters being maintained at a maximum temperature of 90 degrees.

Many medicinal springs

Colorado Springs, Manitou and Glenwood are the best known health resorts of Colorado, because of their being easy of access and situated on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, but there are many other thermal springs on this line which have gained renown for their curative properties. Those at Wagon Wheel Gap are especially noted, being situated amidst scenery of unsurpassed beauty and in close contiguity to one of the best trout streams of the State. Pagosa Springs, which have long been noted for their wonderful curative properties are destined to rank with those at Glenwood and Manitou. As the Denver and Rio Grande completed its line of railroad into that point last fall and it is now so easily accessible capitalists have become interested. Other improvements in the shape of modern hotels and bath-houses are being planned. No longer dependent upon the stage coach, Pagosa now takes its place as it should with the first resorts of the State.

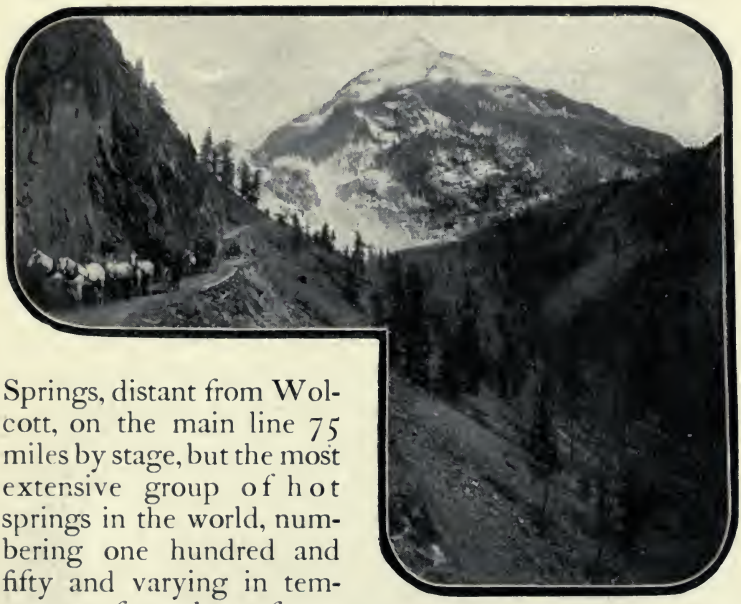
Pagosa Springs

It would be an injustice to pass without mention the many other health resorts; although space forbids extended descriptions here, the same will be found in other pub-

Lake San Cristoval

lications of the Rio Grande Road. Among these are Canon City, with hot springs and excellent hotels; Valley View Hot Springs, near Villa Grove; Ojo Caliente, near Barranca; Trimble Springs, near Durango; Cebolla Hot Springs; Waunita Hot Springs; Poncha Springs, near Salida; Buena Vista Hot Springs; Mt. Princeton Hot Springs; Soda Springs, near Leadville; and Steamboat

More hot springs



Mount Abrams and Toll Road

Springs, distant from Wolcott, on the main line 75 miles by stage, but the most extensive group of hot springs in the world, numbering one hundred and fifty and varying in temperature from almost freezing cold to 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

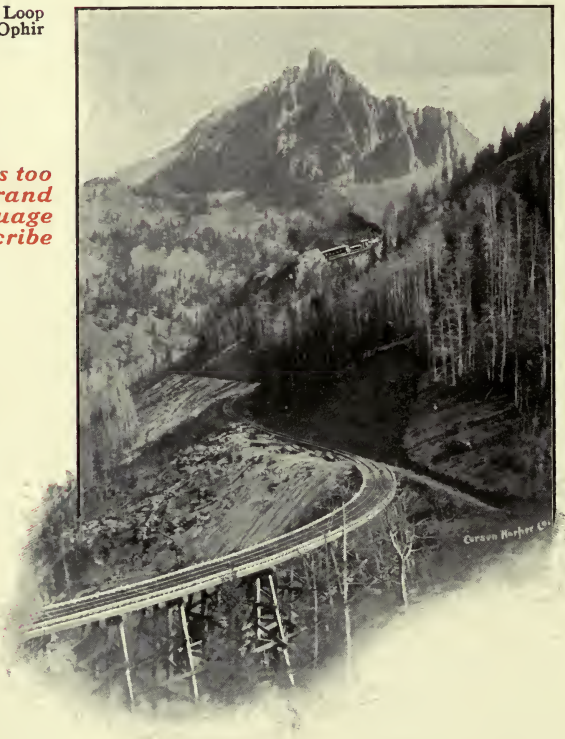
Ponce de Leon never reached Colorado in his search for the fabled "Fountain of Youth," but certainly this favorite of Nature comes nearer possessing such a boon than any other place in the world.

The fountain of youth

Masterpieces in Nature's Picture Gallery.

LIKE a necklace of golden beads, with here and there a diamond of purest ray and most dazzling splendor, the scenic beauties of Colorado lie upon her breast. The royal ermine of imperial and eternal snow rests on the shoulders of her mountains. These comparisons may sound exaggerated to those unfamiliar with the facts and may appear an unwarranted employment of poetic license, but such is not the case. There are some emotions too profound for adequate expression in words, and there are some scenes too grand for language to describe. The traveler in Colorado cannot fail to experience some emotions, excited by beholding the transcendent grandeur of such scenes. Even the artist whose work appeals directly to the eye, can never hope to convey to one unfamiliar

Loop
Ophir



Scenes too grand for language to describe

with the scene a tithe of the sublimity, the glory and the grandeur of one of Colorado's least famous canons, to say nothing about an attempt to depict those of the Royal Gorge, Black Canon of the Gunnison, the Rio de Las Animas or the Canon of the Grand River.

The artist fails to convey the idea

Sultan Mountain

But the memory of one who has beheld these transcendently beautiful scenes becomes a picture gallery whose walls are decorated with views from nature which surpass the most finished product of artistic skill and genius. These pictures would be almost infinite in number and of such variety that interest would never flag in recalling them to view, just as interest never flagged when they were first beheld.

Nature's picture gallery

The Canon of the Grand River

Among them would be the Canon of the Grand River, through which one passes on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande road just before reaching Glenwood Springs. For a distance of sixteen miles the towering walls of the canon rise on each side, confining the river and the track within narrow limits and rising at times to the stupendous height of nearly half a mile of perpendicular ascent. The stratification of the walls is plainly marked, a characteristic not present in many of the famous canons of Colorado, and, in addition to the wonderful variety of shape assumed by the rock formations, their colors are quite as wonderfully varied. Brilliant tints of red and yellow, of maroon, lavender, pink and amber make the walls a constant study and lend a delightful variety to the scene. The overwhelming grandeur of this gigantic specimen of Nature's architecture is softened and beautified by these chromatic ornamentations, and the effect upon the mind of the spectator is that of mingled delight and awe.

Nature's Architecture

Eagle River Canon

Turning from this picture, a sharp and strong contrast is found in that of the Black Canon of the Gunnison. This tremendous chasm through the mountains is the passage way of the Gunnison River and is followed for

Black Canon

New Line over La Veta Pass

fourteen miles by that line of the Denver & Rio Grande road which connects Salida with Grand Junction and traverses the central part of Colorado from its eastern to its western border. Here the lack of brilliant color gives a gloomy grandeur to the scene, while the presence of that majestic sky-piercing pinnacle known as Curecanti Needle and of the lovely Chipeta Falls adds an element of varied interest which banishes all monotony. As in the Canon of the Grand River, the rock walls rise to a tremendous height, the skyline being frequently more than two thousand feet above the eyes of the observer. It is difficult to grasp understandingly the vast proportions thus briefly noted, but some idea of them may be gathered when it is suggested that this rocky wall towers upward to a distance equal to that of the street frontage of four city blocks.

The Rocks rise to a tremendous height

Saltair Beach

Take a bath in the Great Salt Lake

And still another picture of abysmal heights and depths is held in memory. It is that of the Canon of the Animas. En route from Durango to Silverton the traveler beholds this marvelous chasm, which has been made the water-course of what the Spaniards called the "Rio de las Animas Perdidas," or "River of Lost Souls."

Animas Canon

But grandest of all the masterpieces of Nature whose pictures ornament the walls of memory's art gallery is that of the Grand Canon of the Arkansas and its crowning glory, the Royal Gorge. Easiest of access among all the canons of Colorado, being situated on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande between Canon City and Salida in the Front Range of the Rockies, it is the most spectacular, awe-inspiring and magnificent. Down this mighty cleft in the heart of the granite rock-barrier rush the raging waters of the Arkansas River, lashed into foaming fury and dashed into spuming spray by its swift descent through the tortuous defile. So narrow is the passage at one point that there was no room for both

The Royal Gorge

road and river, and therefore a curiously constructed bridge of steel had to be thrown lengthwise of the stream, suspended from iron supports mortised into the canon walls on each side to the right and left. And right here can be seen the climax of all the great canon's grandeur, that which has been aptly called "The Royal Gorge." For two thousand six hundred feet the solid monoliths soar upward, — five times as lofty as the Washington monument, the highest permanent structure reared by the hand of man. No words can adequately describe the magnificence of the scene. Only those who have beheld its glories can appreciate them.

The famous hanging bridge

There are many more wonders which have not been mentioned, and there are numerous canons which have not been referred to; enough has been said, however, for all description is inadequate and only those who see can know.

The Denver & Rio Grande being a part of a great through trans-continental line, the journey continues on *via* the Rio Grande Western to Salt Lake City and Ogden and thence to the Pacific coast.

Temple and Tabernacle

You can stop over at Salt Lake City

Indian Tepees

Big Game in Nature's Preserves

IN the preceding pages we have endeavored to epitomize the attractions which Nature presents to the traveler in Colorado, so far as scenery, climate and health advantages are concerned, and having suggested the matters of interest to be found there by the students of geology, history and anthropology, there remains a word to say concerning the remarkable natural game preserves in the northwestern part of the State.

The Sportsman's Paradise

Routt County, of which the town of Steamboat Springs is the county-seat, and Garfield and Rio Blanca counties within a radius of fifty miles from Meeker, has been termed "The Sportsman's Paradise". Here big game abounds and here the huntsman can find at the minimum expense of time and money the most attractive field for the employment of the gun and rod on the continent. If the excitement of the chase is desired, it can be

found on the trail of the black, cinnamon and silver-tip bear, or the stately elk can be stalked, the agile deer pursued, the fleet antelope followed. Should a spice of danger prove attractive, it can be found when the hunter faces a big mountain lion.

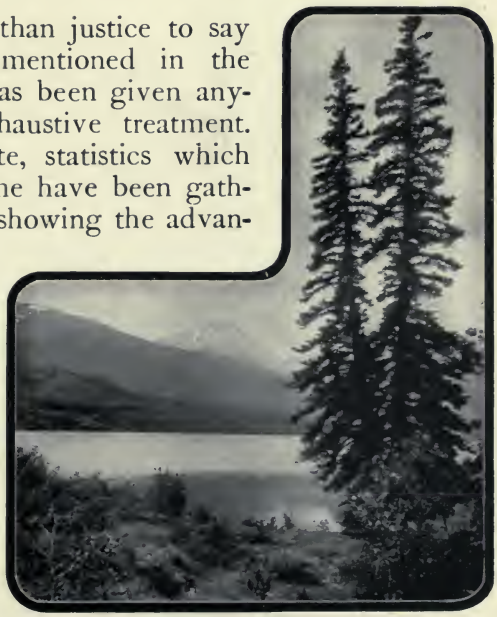
Elk and deer abound

As for wild fowl, they are found in abundance, including ducks, geese, grouse, ptarmigan and sage chickens; and the fisherman will discover that the mountain brooks swarm with the largest and most gamy trout.

To reach this really remarkable region, only seventy-five miles of staging are required from Wolcott station, or thirty to fifty miles from DeBeque or Rifle on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande road. There are mountains and valleys to be explored, and each abounds with the game, large and small, which naturally seeks such favorable environment. This region has not been hunted out, and, as Colorado protects game with stringent and strongly enforced laws, it is safe to say it will not be exhausted for many seasons yet to come.

How to reach it

It is no more than justice to say that no subject mentioned in the preceding pages has been given anything like an exhaustive treatment. As to the climate, statistics which would fill a volume have been gathered by scientists showing the advantages possessed by Colorado in this regard, but space has prevented more than a



Upper Twin Lake

passing mention here. And with reference to the scenery, hundreds of marvels have been passed over in silence, and the same may be said concerning the health-giving springs and resorts for invalids.

In what has been said, a desire to suggest some of the enjoyments and benefits which can be secured by a sojourn with Nature in Colorado has prompted the saying, and with the hope that the suggestion has been successful in exciting interest this incomplete record ends.

Ute Indian

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